

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

March 18, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on March 18, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Main Office with the following members present: Mmes. Driehaus, Ingram and Robinson and Messrs. Fultz, and Smith, with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Cox, Bello, Arszman, Cohen, and Simmons, and Messrs. Merrifield, Koopman, Bigham, Thomas, and Celsor.

MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2008 Public Recreation Commission meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Highlight – Communication & Design

Stephanni Cohen and Bunny Arszman gave an overview of the Communication and Design Division. Ms. Cohen gave a brief history of the Division and distributed a handout explaining the job functions of Communication and Design.

Ms. Cohen is a Graphic Designer. She reported that one her main duties is to make sure CRC's branding and image is consistent and that people are aware of who CRC is and what we do. She shared with Commission some of the brochures, reports, and other products that the Communication & Design Division is responsible for.

Ms. Arszman is a Recreation Specialist and is a part-time employee with CRC. Her duties include video production, promotional pieces, documentaries, and press releases. She also tracks media coverage for CRC. CRC does not have an advertising budget. We have a good relationship with news stations in town. Ms. Arszman explained that since 2006 our TV coverage has dropped due

to the fact that 2006 included Tall Stacks, Light Up The Square, and 1000 Hands projects. Rev. Smith commented on how powerful the media is. Dr. Merrifield stated that communications is something we must expand on in the future.

Ms. Cohen thanked Commission for their time and attention. Ms. Driehaus stated that we (CRC) look better than ever and thanked Ms. Cohen and Ms. Arszman for the great job they do.

Cincinnati Reds

March 29th is Reds Volunteer Day. They will be organizing volunteers to go to 10 Recreation Centers to do a good clean up. They will be doing maintenance work, painting, and landscaping at our facilities.

RiverTrek Grant Award

We have received a grant from the Dater Foundation in the amount of \$6,500.00 for our RiverTrek program. The Dater Foundation has been a supporter for several years.

Youth Commission Member Report – Brittany Robinson

Ms. Robinson reported that she has attended the Teen Leadership Board Meeting. This group will help organize and plan teen events.

Ms. Driehaus commented that the Youth Volunteer Event at Friendship Park was a very nice event and she was surprised at the number of youth volunteers we have.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Robin Martin to the Foundation Board

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve staff's recommendation that Robin L. Martin be appointed to the CRC Foundation Board of Trustees.

Motion passed

Request from Ride Cincinnati

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the request of the Ride Cincinnati Foundation to conduct a raffle during their event on June 1, 2008

on the Central Riverfront. This is an exemption to the policy. Commission approved their request to conduct a raffle at their event in 2007 also.

Caretaker Agreement for Jason Barney at Schmidt Boat Ramp

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to approve the caretaker agreement for Jason Barney at Schmidt Boat Ramp. In addition to the boat ramp and concession duties, Mr. Barney will also perform emergency field maintenance at the Schmidt Complex in case of rain.

Motion passed.

Other Fund 105 Transfer Request

Mr. Moeddel is not present but has expressed concerns about this item and would like to have it tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Ingram asked for additional information about this transfer request. Mr. Bigham explained that Fund 105 is the Golf Revenue Fund. The year end balance is \$1,750,000.00, or 27% of 2007 revenue levels. The standard is that the fund balance be 15-20% of prior year revenue. The requested transferred funds will be used to purchase equipment for the CRC golf courses. If Commission approves this transfer, staff will ask Council to also approve it so we can purchase the needed equipment.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to table this item until the April 1, 2008 meeting.

Motion passed.

Other Fund 318 Transfer Request

Mr. Moeddel is not present but has expressed concerns about this item and would like to have it tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Ingram asked for additional information about this transfer request. Mr. Bigham explained that Fund 381 is the Sawyer Point Revenue Fund. The year end balance is \$823,000.00 or 112% of 2007 revenue levels. The standard is that the fund balance be 15-20% of prior year revenue. The requested transferred funds will be used to improve the park. If Commission approves this transfer, staff will ask Council to also approve it so we can make improvements to the park.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to table this item until the April 1, 2008 meeting.

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION

At this time there was discussion about the possibility of holding one of the Commission Meetings each month at a different time. Ms. Ingram is not able to attend all meetings on Tuesdays at 4:00pm. There was a suggestion of possibly having the first meeting of the month on the first Friday of each month at 9:00am and the second meeting continuing to be on the third Tuesday at 4:00pm. Commissioners will check their calendars for that possibility.

Request for Major McNeil to Receive Lifetime Golf Privileges

Mr. Fultz provided information at the March 4, 2008 meeting and requested that Major McNeil receive Lifetime Golf Privileges.

Ms. Ingram asked if Mr. McNeil's qualifications met our Lifetime Golf Privileges Policy requirements. Ms. Driehaus stated that this is the same information we received in 2006. Rev. Smith said that we need to know if the service listed pertains to CRC activities. They would like Mr. McNeil to specifically relate how the service pertains to CRC.

Rev. Smith reported that it has been stated that during the first week in February Mr. McNeil represented himself as a Golf Advisory Council Member at the Reeves Golf Course in order to receive free golf. This is a misrepresentation. Rev. Smith feels that the Commissioners should speak to Mr. McNeil in regard to this report.

Mr. Fultz moved that Major McNeil receive Lifetime Golf Privileges. There was no second to this motion.

Ms. Ingram moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, that the vote on this item be tabled until Mr. McNeil has an opportunity to come in person or send a written explanation as to how his service qualifies him for Lifetime Golf Privileges.

Motion passed.

At this time Mr. Fultz left the Commission meeting.

Field Trips

Ms. Ingram moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted.

Motion passed.

COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 4:00pm at the Oakley Community Center – 3882 Paxton Road (09)

Meeting Adjourned.

Denise M. Driehaus, President

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed. D., Director

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